

**SANTA BARBARA ALLOTMENT #403**

Carson National Forest  
Camino Real Ranger District

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2010**

The annual meeting for the Santa Barbara Allotment was held on April 16, 2010, at the community center in Llano de San Juan, New Mexico. Attending were Manuel Griego, Octavio Griego, Joe Griego, Mr. and Mrs. Estevan Lopez, Dorothy Gonzales, Pete Contreras, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Rodarte, Andie Sanchez, Antonio Sanchez, and Charlie Sanchez from the Santa Barbara Grazing Association. Melvin Herrera and Tammy Malone represented the Camino Real Ranger District.

These annual operating instructions are hereby made a part of the Term Grazing Permit for the Santa Barbara Grazing Association.

The Camino Real Ranger District and permittees discussed current drought conditions, current snow depth and water content on the allotment; and the outlook on predicted weather patterns for this coming season. Conditions for this year appear positive as seen so far this winter. The full permitted numbers could be grazed this year and any nonuse will be recorded as personal convenience.

**Table 1-Permitted and Authorized kind and number**

<b>1. Permittee</b>	<b>Number and Kind</b>	<b>Authorized number and kind</b>
<b>Santa Barbara Grazing Association</b>	<b>115 cow/calf &amp; 7 bulls to 192 cow/calf, 11 bulls</b>	<b>171 cow/calf, 11 bulls</b>
Pete A. & Gloria M. Contreras	(10 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)
Lloyd, Anthony, & Norman Esquibel	(25 cow/calf)	(27 cow/calf, 1 bull)
Dorothy K. Gonzales	(18 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)
Joe G. & Helen Griego	( 7 cow/calf)	(14 cow/calf, 1 bull)
Manuel A. Griego	( 7 cow/calf)	(18 cow/calf, 1 bull)
Octavio Griego	(12 cow/calf)	(18 cow/calf, 1 bull)
Estevan R. Lopez	(10 cow/calf)	(16 cow/calf, 2 bulls)
Rutilio A. Martinez	(10 cow/calf)	(19 cow/calf, 2 bulls)
Clarence R. Romero	( 9 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)
Joseph Oliver Rodarte	( 4 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)
Lee and Betty Maestas	(30 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)
Andie R. Sanchez	(27 cow/calf)	(29 cow/calf, 1 bulls)
Charlie F. & Brenda M. Sanchez	(23 cow/calf)	(30 cow/calf, 2 bull)

**Table 2. Season of use.**

<b>2. Season of Use</b>		
06/01 - 9/30	(122 days)	Santa Barbara

**Table 3-Pasture Rotation**

<b>3. Pasture Rotation</b>				
<b>Pasture</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Actual use</b>	<b>Utilization%</b>
Santa Barbara (hayfield)	06/01 - 6/04	4 days		
Santa Barbara (bottoms)	06/05 – 6/10	6 days		
Osha/Bear Mtn/Comales	06/11 – 07/10	30 days		
Indian/Jicarita	07/11 – 07/31	20 days		
Middle/East Fork	08/01 – 09/05	36 days		
West Fork	09/06 – 09/20	15 days		
Santa Barbara (bottoms and hayfield)	09/21 – 09/30	10 days		

Adaptive management will continue to be applied to the management of the Santa Barbara allotment which means that the season of use, numbers grazed, and rotation schedules may be adjusted throughout the grazing season based on resource conditions. Range improvements, i.e. fences, will be maintained prior to moving to a different pasture.

#### **4. Maintenance of Improvements**

The entire cost of improvements maintenance is the responsibility of the permittee. Assigned allotment boundary fences, pasture division fences, stock tanks, springs, cattleguards, and other range structural improvements must be maintained prior to the permittees going on to the allotment.

#### **5. Other Items of Discussion**

The 2009 season went well overall. Utilization on the allotment was within the utilization guidelines of 40 percent in key areas as monitored by Forest Service employees. Distribution of livestock needs to improve as many areas of the allotment are receiving little or no utilization. Distribution of livestock is key and requires diligent riding from all members. Implementing the recently approved NEPA analysis should help address this issue. Permittees did a good job with maintenance of range improvements on the allotment.

Utilization guidelines for 2010 are 40% of available annual forage in key use areas and 4 inches stubble height in riparian zones. Forage utilization will be measured in key forage areas.

The grazing fee this year is \$1.35 per head month for cattle.

The Grazing Instructions for 2010 were discussed and are the same as in 2009.

Permittees discussed the issue about the fence around the Santa Barbara campground and also the gate to Indian Creek, and asked if the Camino Real District can help with maintenance. FS will assist with maintenance and in providing materials for new gates.

Some discussion on the NEPA process for this allotment took place. We reviewed the Decision Notice and permittees will prioritize which range improvements will be constructed this season. Permittees will have several years to complete the new range improvements. We also reviewed the new Term Grazing Permit which will be issued.

Permittees will be moving the fence in Bear Mountain and cattleguard to a more useful area which will improve distribution. The Forest Service will see about using the C&M crew to move the cattleguard to its new location.

Permittees were informed that the Camino Real District will be replacing the bridge on the Santa Barbara River in the wilderness. This effort will take up to six weeks and is anticipated to begin mid to late June.

The Camino Real District again encourages permittees to cut the hay meadow prior to Canada thistle setting its seed early in the fall. There has been a visible reduction in the amount of Canada thistle in the last few years.

The Camino Real District will provide replacement tags this year as needed.

The Forest Service discussed ongoing efforts with the Travel Management Rule. A decision is expected to be signed by the Forest Supervisor during this grazing season. Permittees stated that they need to use ATV's and motor vehicles for performing their required maintenance on fences and other range improvements, checking that gates are closed, checking on cattle health and location, and placing salt and mineral supplements. Forest Service should be able to accommodate with a written letter issued to the permittees.

Priority for Range Betterment work for 2010:

1. Thinning (Cañada Honda)
2. Prescribed burns (approved in Decision Notice)
3. The Hayfield needs heavy fence maintenance, including some corners and braces.
4. Ripley's point fence needs heavy maintenance, possibly conversion to a "lay down fence".
5. Replace bridge across Santa Barbara River past wilderness boundary.
6. Gap fencing to separate the bottoms from the East and West Fork pastures.

Permittees and the Camino Real District will look at the range together to determine range readiness and on-date.

The Camino Real Ranger District would like at least 2 weeks notice prior to any proposed change in management (either season or numbers) so that they can go look at the allotment with the permittees.